

**ELECTRICAL PROGRAM INSPECTION POLICY  
POLICY 02-01**

Effective Date: April 25, 2002

**Move-on Buildings and Structures**

Chapter 19.28.010(1) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) requires *“all wires and equipment, and installations thereof, that convey electric current and installations of equipment to be operated by electric current, in, on, or about buildings or structures ...shall be in strict conformity with this chapter, the statutes of the state of Washington, and the rules issued by the department, and shall be in conformity with approved methods of contraction for safety to life and property.”*

RCW 19.28.010(2) says, *“Residential buildings or structures moved into or within a county, city, or town are not required to comply with all the requirements of this chapter, if the original occupancy classification of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move. This subsection shall not apply to residential buildings or structures that are substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.”*

- The 1992 legislative discussion for the amendment RCW 19.28.010(2) (i.e. exemption for move-on residential buildings or structures) shows the exemption was intended to apply only to buildings or structures constructed and inspected in the US according to United States standards. Electrical code enforcement agencies within the United States utilize the National Electrical Code (NEC) and other nationally recognized US standards as the basis of construction. The statute and the department recognizes only US standards of construction.
- All buildings or structures constructed within the US must meet the US requirements in effect at the time and place the wiring was installed.
- **All Buildings or structures relocated into or within the state**
  - All buildings or structures, other than residential, wired inside the US must be inspected to ensure compliance with current requirements of RCW 19.28 and the rules developed by the department.
  - All buildings or structures wired outside the US or Canada must be inspected to ensure compliance with all current requirements of RCW 19.28 and the rules developed by the department.
- **Residential buildings or structures wired in the US, to NEC requirements, and moved into or within a county, city, or town must**

**be inspected to ensure compliance with the NEC requirements in effect at the time and place the original wiring was made providing:**

- The original occupancy classification of the building or structure is not changed as a result of the move; and
  - The building or structure has not been substantially remodeled or rehabilitated as a result of the move.
  - If the original occupancy classification of the building is changed as a result of the move or the building or structures is substantially remodeled or rehabilitated as a result of the move, the building or structure must be inspected to ensure compliance with all current requirements of RCW 19.28 and the rules developed by the department.
- **Residential buildings or structures wired in Canada to Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) standards, must be inspected to ensure compliance with the following minimum safety requirements:**
    - Service, grounding, and bonding must comply with current Washington standards and codes except:
      - All equipment grounding conductors contained within a common box or enclosure must be bonded together and to the enclosure if the enclosure is metallic.
    - CSA listed Type NMD cable, as a wiring method in residential buildings or structures wired in Canada to Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) standards, is allowed with the following qualifications:
      - CSA listed Type NMD cable, American Wire Gauge (AWG) #10 and smaller installed after 1964, utilizing an equipment grounding conductor smaller than the phase conductors, must be:
        - Replaced with a cable utilizing a full-size equipment grounding conductor; or
        - Protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device.
        - Protected by a circuit breaker sized to protect the circuit based on ampacity equivalent to the size of the equipment grounding conductor.

- CSA listed Type NMD cable, AWG #8 and larger, must:
  - Utilize an equipment grounding conductor sized to the requirements of the NEC in effect at the time of the installation;
  - Be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device; or
  - Be replaced
- Other types of wiring and cable used in residential buildings and structures must be:
  - Replaced with wiring listed in accordance with US standards by a testing laboratory approved by the department;
  - Protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device and arc fault circuit protection device; or
  - Field evaluated on a case-by-case basis by a testing laboratory approved by the department.
- Equipment, other than wiring and panelboards, manufactured and installed in the original installation prior to 1997 must be listed and identified by recognized US or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) labels.
- All panelboards must be listed and identified by recognized US labels with the following qualifications:
  - CSA listed panelboards labeled “Suitable for use as Service Equipment” will be considered to be approved only as “Suitable for use only as Service Equipment.”
  - CSA listed panelboards must be limited to a maximum of 42 circuits.
- CSA listed panelboards used as lighting and appliance panelboards as described in the NEC, must meet all current NEC and WAC 296-46A requirements for lighting and appliance panelboards.
- Any wiring disturbed as a result of the move must meet current Washington standards and codes.

- The location, type, and protection of receptacles and equipment in the bathroom, laundry, kitchen, basement, garage, and outdoor areas must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.
- 4 – 15 ampere kitchen small appliance circuits will be accepted in lieu of the normally required 2 – 20 amp kitchen small appliance circuits. Receptacles will not be required to be added on kitchen peninsular counters or islands.
- Spacing requirements for all other receptacles must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.
- Receptacles installed above baseboard or fixed wall space heaters must be removed and the outlet box covered with a blank cover. The receptacle is required to be relocated as closely as possible to the existing location.
- Lighting outlet and switch locations must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.
- Dedicated 20 ampere small appliance circuits are not required to be added in dining rooms.
- Electric water heater branch circuits must be adequate for the load served.
- The location, type, and protection of feeders must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Ronald E. Fuller

Chief Electrical Inspector